

Symposium on Geography and Drug Addiction

Call for Participation

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) are jointly sponsoring a research symposium on Geography and Drug Addiction. The symposium will be held March 8, 2006, in conjunction with the 2006 Annual Meeting of the AAG at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Medical researchers, epidemiologists, geographers, neuroscientists, geneticists, and others with experience in the geographical dimensions of drug addiction are encouraged to apply to participate in the symposium. Themes to be addressed include:

- Spatial patterns of drug use and addiction
- Linking spatial models with neuroscience and genetics in drug abuse research
- Interaction of social and environmental factors with biochemical processes of addiction
- Geographic analysis linking demographic and genetic characteristics related to drug addiction and treatment
- Locational analyses of drug addiction treatment and service delivery facilities
- Neighborhood scale studies of geographic factors (including the built environment) and their interaction with drug addiction, treatment, or prevention
- Use of Geographic Information Systems in better understanding and responding to drug addiction
- Spatial diffusion modeling of addictive drug usage and its changing characteristics, including also predictive modeling
- Interaction of other spatially dependent variables with drug addiction, or with prevention and treatment strategies
- Other geographic research relevant to better understanding the etiology of drug use and addiction.

Those interested in participating in the Symposium as a presenter should submit a one-page summary of their proposed topic, describing relevant research conducted, along with a brief resume or CV to Douglas Richardson, AAG Executive Director, at drichardson@aag.org and to Yonette Thomas, Ph.D., Chief, Epidemiology Research Branch, NIDA Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research, at yt38e@nih.gov. In addition, poster submissions are also welcome; poster applications need only be accompanied by an abstract.

A book or special journal issue publication of the symposium results, including selected research papers, is planned for early 2007. Symposium participants should be prepared to develop a full paper for publication if requested by the editors.

For more information on the NIDA/AAG Geography and Drug Addiction Symposium, contact Douglas Richardson at drichardson@aag.org. Participation as a presenter is limited to approximately thirty researchers. Applications for Participation should be received no later than **November 8, 2005**. Earlier submission is encouraged.